

August 13, 2000

TO: Federal-State Management Group

FROM: Mary Selkirk

SUBJECT: Meeting Outcomes – August 8, 2000

The following is a summary of outcomes from the CALFED Federal-State Management Group meeting held on Tuesday, August 8, 2000.

1. Follow up/Updates

- Federal FY 2001 Budget – Attention is on Congressman Doolittle's legislation containing language to authorize CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This is considered an essential action for CALFED to receive funding for the upcoming Federal fiscal year. Interior staff is planning to meet with the Congressman later in the week.
- Framework Milestones – Steve Macaulay said the Governor appointed a Drought Contingency Planning Panel, which is scheduled to meet August 30.
- Friday Stakeholder Discussions – Friday's four sessions with the agricultural and urban stakeholders, Delta stakeholders, environmental stakeholders and Regional Council of Rural Counties went as expected.

Mary Selkirk shared an editorial from the West [Contra Costa] County Times, which discussed CALFED's formation "has given way to an understanding that the state's water needs can be met only if there is cooperation among all interested parties on a regional basis" and the contrast with regions which are "quickly drawing up ordinances to block or limit the transfer of groundwater beyond county boundaries."

2. Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation

- Levee Restoration Funding for Van Sickle Island
Rob Cooke, Manager of the CALFED Levee Program, gave extensive background information on the request for approval of the request for \$90,000 in Levee Restoration funding for repairs on Van Sickle Island in the Suisun Marsh. Reclamation District 1606 through Burns Engineering, requests CALFED financial assistance to repair levee subsidence. RD 1606 will provide local cost share at 90:10 or \$10,000. This would provide a short-term fix to preserve this critical Suisun Marsh Island during CALFED's Suisun Marsh planning effort. Rob provided illustrations how maintained, controlled

breaches of the levees can actually lower Delta salinity; whereas, uncontrolled breaches can cause extensive damage and degradation of water quality.

Mike Thabault, USFWS, spoke against the measure based on it being in conflict with the Services' plan in the same area.

Outcome:

- USBR will pursue Interior funding for the project.
- CALFED agency staff will work with USFWS to develop a common blueprint for Suisun Bay improvements.

3. Status Report –CALFED Internal Program Workplans/State Budget Change Proposals

Naser Bateni, DWR, has been assigned to development of State BCPs for State fiscal year 2001-2002 to support CALFED activities. He met the previous week with DFG Resources and CALFED. They identified 180 actions and will develop 10 major BCPs for ecosystem restoration, water transfers, water use efficiency, drinking water, levees, storage, watershed, science and general CALFED support. Steve Ritchie said the BCPs will be closely aligned with the Implementation MOU. The State appears to be at least one year ahead of the Federal budgeting actions.

4. ERP Restoration Reserve - Rebecca Fawver of CALFED's Ecosystem Restoration Program, reviewed Ecosystem Roundtable's request for Management Group approval of a revised policy for the use and administration of the Restoration Reserve Funds and Contract Amendment Process. Because of budget constraints, the Restoration Reserve funds will now be used, thus necessitating setting policy guidelines.

Outcome:

- Approval was provided.
- In the near future, Rebecca will provide a list of reviewers used for the amendment process.

5. In-Delta Standards - Kathy Kelly, DWR, gave an update on the SWRCB in-Delta salinity standards and actions. She provided a handout outlining RWQCB, Central Valley Region's development of a Basin Plan Amendment for the control of salt and boron in the lower San Joaquin River from Mendota Dam to Vernalis. New water quality objectives and an implementation plan to meet these objectives will be proposed in this amendment.

Outcome: In response to Patrick Wright's request, Kathy Kelly will revise the paper to be a free-standing document.

6. Environmental Water Account

- Results of meeting with Dave Schuster – Ron Ott, CALFED staff consultant, stated the results of the meeting were encouraging. Major question remains is whether EWA can purchase the amount of water needed south of the Delta.

7. Status of ROD – Wendy Halverson Martin, CALFED new Chief Deputy Executive Director, reported the ROD Agency Team continues its work on the ROD and its numerous attachments. The next draft ROD will be distributed that afternoon for agency comments. A new draft version will be released on Monday, August 14, 2000 for circulation among top-level management. A revised draft Implementation MOU will be available on August 9.